



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Memorandum

Subject: **ACTION:** Environmental Management Systems

Date: JUN 17 2004

From: Administrator

Reply to: CBurleson
Attn. of: x73576

To: See Distribution List

FAA has committed to implement environmental management systems (EMSs) by the end of year 2005 as required by Executive Order 13148, *Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management*.

Environmental requirements are embedded in many FAA actions, and the environmental process must be completed before these actions may be implemented. As we transform FAA into a performance-based organization, we are applying best business practices to the strategic management of our operations.

An EMS is the proven way to ensure strategic management of the environmental aspects of those operations in a way that supports FAA goals. It is not an add-on to existing systems but a tool to help FAA take a more thorough and professional approach to the management of its environmental responsibilities.

An EMS can help FAA eliminate some environmental hazards and their associated regulatory requirements and provide more reliable and effective management of hazards that cannot be eliminated. A business case comparing FAA to organizations of similar complexity identified potential benefits from EMS. We expect to get similar tangible operational and financial benefits from the successful implementation of EMSs.

The William J. Hughes Technical Center and the Office of Environment and Energy's Environment, Energy and Employee Safety Division were selected as EMS pilot projects. These two pilots represent the ends of the spectrum of possible types of EMSs that might be developed for the agency.

The pilots consisted of reviewing the current operations of the two organizations and then comparing them to an established management framework (ISO 14001, EMS Standard). Where necessary, missing elements of the framework were added to the existing system. All procedures associated with EMS were documented and automated using a web-based data management tool named the Knowledge Management System.

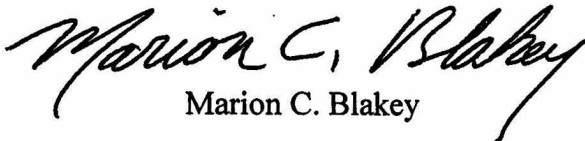
It is still very early in the process, but concrete benefits have already resulted from initial implementation of EMS at the two pilot locations. The Technical Center has improved efficiency, communication, and environmental performance as a result of their EMS. The AEE-200 EMS initiated organizational process changes for policy creation and the measurement of their effectiveness.

The Technical Center has gone from a Large Quantity Waste Generator to a Small Quantity Waste Generator. This has reduced yearly costs by over \$5,000 and has lowered the risk of fines. As the Center fully implements its EMS, they will quantify savings in other areas as well.

By documenting and streamlining its processes and procedures, AEE-200 has been able to reduce the time for developing policy orders. For example, the pre-EMS Pollution Prevention Order 1050.10C took more than three years to complete. By contrast, the post-EMS Tribal Consultation Order 1210.20 required only a year to complete. While the two orders are not identical, AEE estimates they saved \$31,000 in staff time.

EMS objectives are being tracked by the President's Management Council. Further, EMSs are consistent with and support the FAA strategic plan goals for increased safety, greater capacity, and organizational excellence.

I encourage you to request a briefing from your environmental management system committee representatives (see attached list). Your support is essential for the successful completion of this important effort that aims to make better use of our resources, avoid environmental risks, measure our effectiveness more accurately, and promote our goal of becoming a superior performance-based organization.



Marion C. Blakey

Attachment

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